

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11 and 15-23 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 6, 8, 15, 16 and 20 are currently amended and claims 21-23 are new. No new matter has been added. A Request for Continued Examination is filed concurrently herewith.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Weitkamp (EP-1101934 A) in view of Boyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,494,437), or alternatively as obvious over Weitkamp in view of Jackson (3,829,064). The Examiner rejected claims 8, 11 and 15-20 as obvious over Nickelsen (EP 1101936) in view of Boyer, or alternatively as obvious over Nickelsen in view of Jackson. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections and the Examiner's assertions regarding what the cited references show or teach, nor does Applicant acquiesce to the Examiner's characterization of the allegedly inherent capabilities of the asserted combination of prior art or the Examiner's characterization of what Applicant has disclosed as prior art in the present application. Further, Applicant believes the cited references cannot be combined to reach a combination of features identical to those that were recited in the previously pending claims without inventive activity or without knowledge of the present invention. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims herein to further distinguish the claimed embodiments of the present invention from the cited references as discussed below.

Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims Thereof

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "a plurality of holding bars rigidly positioned in a rear portion of the pod, the holding bars supporting the at least one deflection roller within an interior space of the rear portion of the pod to guide the hauling cable." The cited references fail to teach or suggest such features. For example, Jackson and Boyer are not directed to wind turbines and lack a pylon and a pod altogether, let alone a plurality of holding bars rigidly positioned in a rear portion of the pod to support a deflection roller. Weitkamp discloses a pivotable lifting structure in the upper region of a wind power installation for lifting components which operates outside the confines of a pod thereof (see Figure 3) and Nickelsen

discloses a winch carried by a trolley on upper side members of a machine frame of a wind power installation for lifting components up to the machine frame (see Figure 4). Accordingly, none of the cited references teach the aforementioned features recited in claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

Independent Claim 6 and Dependent Claims Thereof

Claim 6 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “laying a hauling cable from the winch to at least one deflection roller in a region of a pylon head, the hauling cable passing through at least one bearing that rotatably supports a rotor of the wind power installation and further to a component to be fitted/removed.” The cited references fail to teach or suggest such features. For example, Jackson and Boyer are not directed to wind turbines and lack a pylon head and rotor altogether, and thus cannot disclose laying a hauling cable from a winch to at least one deflection roller in a region of a pylon head among other features. Weitkamp discloses a lifting structure mounted to a wind power installation in which a cable is directed through the pylon and over one or more rollers that are installed remote from any rotor of the installation or bearing rotatably supporting the same (see Figure 3). Nickelsen discloses a wind power installation in which a winch is carried by a trolley on upper side members of a machine frame thereof, and in one instance, a cable of the winch routed over a tackle or roller in the hub of the installation (see Figure 7). In this instance, the cable in the Nickelson device enters the hub through a manhole and is not laid through at least one bearing that rotatably supports a rotor of the wind power installation. Each of the cited references thus fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned features recited in claim 6. Accordingly, for at least this reason, independent claim 6 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claim 7 depends from independent claim 6 and is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

Independent Claim 8 and Dependent Claims Thereof

Although the language and scope of independent claim 8 differs from that of independent claim 6, the allowability of claim 8 will be apparent in view of the above

discussions. For example, claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, “a rotor coupled to the pylon and rotatably supported by a plurality of bearings” and “a cable coupled to the winch, wherein the cable guide is positioned to guide the cable from the opening in the pod toward and through at least one of the plurality of bearings.” As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a wind turbine installation in which a hauling cable is routed through at least one of a plurality of bearings that rotatably support a rotor of the wind power installation. Accordingly, for at least this reason, independent claim 8 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims 11, 17 and 18 depend from independent claim 8 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

Independent Claim 15

Although the language and scope of independent claim 15 differs from that of independent claim 6, the allowability of claim 15 will also be apparent in view of the above discussions. For example, claim 15 recites, *inter alia*, “a rotor coupled to the pylon and rotatably supported by a plurality of bearings” and “a cable coupled to the winch, wherein the cable guide is positioned to guide the cable from the opening in the pod toward and through at least one of the plurality of bearings.” As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a wind turbine installation in which a hauling cable is routed through at least one of a plurality of bearings that rotatably support a rotor of the wind power installation. Accordingly, for at least this reason, independent claim 15 is allowable over the cited references

Independent Claim 16 and Dependent Claims Thereof

Although the language and scope of independent claim 16 differs from that of independent claim 6, the allowability of claim 16 will also be apparent in view of the above discussions. For example, claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, “a rotor coupled to the pylon and rotatably supported by a plurality of bearings” and “a cable guide in the pod positioned to guide the cable toward the blade mount opening after the cable passes through at least one of the plurality of bearings.” As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a wind turbine installation in which a hauling cable is routed through at least one of a plurality of bearings that rotatably support a rotor of the wind power installation. Accordingly, for at least this reason, independent claim 16 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claim 19 depends from

independent claim 16 and is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

Independent Claim 20

Although the language and scope of independent claim 20 differs from that of independent claim 6, the allowability of claim 20 will also be apparent in view of the above discussions. For example, claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, “a rotor coupled to the pylon and rotatably supported by a plurality of bearings” and “a cable coupled to the winch, wherein the cable guide in the pod is positioned to guide the cable to pass through the blade mount opening in the pod after the cable passes through at least one of the plurality of bearings.” As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a wind turbine installation in which a hauling cable is routed through at least one of a plurality of bearings that rotatably support a rotor of the wind power installation. Accordingly, for at least this reason, independent claim 20 is allowable over the cited references.

New Claim 21 and Dependent Claims Thereof

Newly submitted claim 21 is fully supported by the specification, and does not constitute new matter. New claim 21 is directed to a wind power installation including a pod having an opening in a front region of the pod, a cable guide positioned in an interior of the pod, a winch, and a cable coupled to the winch. The cable guide in the pod is positioned to guide the cable through the opening in the pod in front of rotor blades of the wind installation to enable loads to be lifted and lowered directly in front of the rotor blades. None of the cited references disclose a wind power installation having such features. Accordingly, newly submitted claim 21 is allowable. Dependent claims 22 and 23 depend from independent claim 21 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees or finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of

this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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